

CLAIMS

- Sub
Bl
1. A bandage for closing a wound, comprising:
 - a) a first flat flexible component having adhesive on a lower surface and a plurality of first elongated connectors extending from one edge thereof in a first direction;
 - b) a second flat flexible component having adhesive on a lower surface and one or more second elongated connectors extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction;
 - c) a first pulling element joined to said first elongated connectors and adapted for lateral translation of the first flat flexible component toward a wound edge;
 - d) a second pulling element joined to said second elongated connectors and adapted for lateral translation of the second flat flexible component toward the wound edge; and
 - e) means for attaching the first elongated connectors to the second flat flexible component and means for attaching the second elongated connectors to the first flat flexible component.
 2. The bandage of Claim 1 wherein elements a) - d) are produced from a substantially inelastic material or are produced from an elastic material which is reinforced with an inelastic structural component thereby rendering the device substantially inelastic.
 3. The bandage of Claim 1 which is adapted for removal of the first and second pulling elements following attachment of the bandage.

4. The bandage of Claim 1 wherein said first and second elongated connectors are interleaved.
5. The bandage of Claim 1 wherein the first elongated connectors are adjacent one another and centrally located, and the second elongated connectors flank the first elongated connectors at outside edges of the bandage.
6. The bandage of Claim 1, wherein the first and second pulling elements are rigid.
7. The bandage of Claim 1, wherein the first and second pulling elements are non-rigid, but are reinforced with a rigid element.
8. The bandage of Claim 1 wherein elements a) - d) are die cut from sheet stock.
9. The bandage of Claim 1 wherein the edges of the first and second flat flexible components which attach to the skin on opposing sides of a wound or incision are adapted to evert skin edges to promote wound healing.
10. The bandage of Claim ¹~~10~~ wherein the edges of the first and second flat flexible components are angled or curved to evert the skin edges.
11. The bandage of Claim 1, wherein a portion of the elongated connector is cut away to increase unobstructed surface area above the wound thereby facilitating drainage of exudates and application of medication.

kw
6/12/01

12. The bandage of Claim 1, wherein the first and second flat flexible components are adapted for wound closure alignment.
13. The bandage of Claim 12 wherein said adaptation comprises alignment marks on the first and second flat flexible components for alignment with each other and/or with marks placed directly on skin.
14. The bandage of Claim 1, which is adapted for transdermal drug delivery.
15. The bandage of Claim 1 further comprising an elastic tension indication element.
16. The bandage of Claim 15 wherein the elastic tension indication element is removable with the pulling elements.
17. The bandage of Claim 1 further comprising a rigid polymer bar attached to the edges of the first and second flat flexible components which are nearest to and substantially parallel the wound or incision.
18. A method for closing a wound or incision comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a bandage for closing a wound comprising:
 - i) a first flat flexible component having adhesive on a lower surface and a plurality of first elongated connectors extending from one edge thereof in a first direction;
 - ii) a second flat flexible component having adhesive on a lower surface and one or more second elongated connectors extending from

- one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to said first direction;
- iii) a first pulling element joined to said first elongated connectors and adapted for lateral translation of the first flat flexible component toward a wound edge;
 - iv) a second pulling element joined to said second elongated connectors and adapted for lateral translation of the second flat flexible component toward the wound edge;
 - vi) means for attaching the first elongated connectors to the second flat flexible component and means for attaching the second elongated connectors to the first flat flexible component; and
- b) attaching said lower surface of said first flexible component to a patient's skin along a first side of a wound;
 - c) attaching said lower surface of said second flexible component to the patient's skin along a second side of said wound;
 - d) pulling simultaneously said first and second pulling elements until said elongated connectors are subjected to a tension sufficient to close the wound or incision;
 - e) attaching said first elongated connectors to said second flexible component; and
 - f) attaching said second elongated connectors to said first flexible component.

120
19.

19
The method of Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

- a) removing said first pulling element from said first elongated connectors; and
- b) removing said second pulling element from said second elongated connectors.

- ¹⁹
~~20.~~ The method of Claim ~~18~~ further comprising the steps of:
- 21) a) attaching said first pulling element to the patient's skin beside said second flat flexible component; and
- b) attaching said second pulling element to the patient's skin beside said first flat flexible component.

- ¹⁸
~~21.~~ The bandage of Claim 1 wherein the elongated connectors are sufficiently spaced-apart to facilitate lateral adjustment of the first flat flexible component relative to the second flat flexible component.

22. A protective bandage for application to the skin, the bandage comprising a breathable film with perimeter adhesive.